



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

AFGHANISTAN

Date: June 2010

Public Information Office: +93 (0)70-234-236 x4454

E-mail: kabulusaidinformation@usaid.gov

<http://afghanistan.usaid.gov>

FACT SHEET

Advancing Afghan Agriculture Alliance (A-4)

OVERVIEW

The objective of the Advancing Afghan Agriculture Alliance (A-4) is to develop the needed capacity within the faculties of agriculture and veterinary science so that graduates have the knowledge, problem solving skills, communication abilities, and the ability to work as a member of a team as expected by the employers of these graduates. A-4 activities include faculty education and training, curriculum development, and course modernization. Developing laboratory skills, practical field activities, and internships that connect to classroom lectures will develop critical thinking skills. The Afghan Ministry of Higher Education and the Kabul University Agriculture and Veterinary faculties are collaborating through an alliance involving various institutions for cooperation and mutual support of common institutional, educational, and developmental objectives along with funding from numerous sources.

ACTIVITIES

- **University system linkages and training:** Offer system-wide training for faculty members from various institutions in English, IT, and curriculum development on an annual basis
- **Institutional linkages:** Establish linkages with academic institutions in the U.S. and neighboring countries to support staff development and degree training for newly hired staff
- **Visiting professors:** Provide Afghan counterparts with current, modern teaching materials to be used with enlightened teaching methodology and technology
- **Student training:** Provide critical skill training and internship opportunities for students in preparation for employment
- **Afghan Scholars Program:** Twelve Afghan students are in agriculture graduate programs at Purdue University; participants were recruited nationally and will supply new staff to Afghanistan's agriculture colleges
- **English language:** Provide English-language training for more than 700 students and 30 faculty members per year

RESULTS

- Sponsored 63 Afghan agriculture and veterinary faculty members for MS degrees through collaboration with Agricultural & Veterinary Universities in Bangalore, India
- Supported 12 Afghan faculty members pursuing graduate degrees at Purdue University; most who will graduate by end of 2010
- Selected 53 Afghan agriculture faculty members for overseas training; visiting specialists trained more than 200 additional faculty members in Afghanistan
- Organized more than 5,000 student seminar or workshop opportunities outside of the teaching curriculum
- Organized more than 2,000 student field or laboratory opportunities to supplement the teaching curriculum: approximately 500 students are presently involved in laboratory exercises that connect directly to courses in which they are enrolled
- Placed more than 400 students in internship programs during studies or after graduation
- Developed a seven-hectare university farm at Kabul University, including student working farm, demonstration orchards, agronomic field trials, research plots, and livestock facility; more than 1000 students are currently involved in student farm activities at Kabul, Hirat, Balkh, and Nangarhar project sites